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**A**DMIRAL COOKE writes from a great familiarity with the Far East. During the war, as chief of staff and chief strategic adviser to Admiral King, he attended all the heads-of-government conferences and, as early as April, 1945, saw the handwriting on the wall when he submitted to King a memorandum warning of impending dangers in China due to the fall of Japan and the increasing power of the Soviet Union in that area.

At war's end Cooke specifically requested command of our naval forces in China and, in January, 1946, he took over the Seventh Fleet. A year later he personally advised President Truman, during a conference in Washington, that the United States would have to supply operational advice and military supplies to Nationalist China, as the Russians were doing for the Chinese Communists in Manchuria.

"Five months later the mission headed by General Wedemeyer came to China to study the whole situation," Admiral Cooke recalls. "I told them that, unless the measures I had recommended to the President were carried out, we stood to lose all the mainland of China and possibly Korea. The Wedemeyer report was suppressed and two years later, in 1949, China fell."

When Russia promptly recognized the Peiping government, the admiral felt that two dangerous contingencies had developed: first, that the U.S. would recognize Red China; secondly, that Formosa would be lost to Communism. If either happened the other was bound to follow, he was convinced.

Admiral Cooke (who had retired in 1948) carried his fight to official Washington, where in formal and informal talks he emphasized the necessity of helping Nationalist China and saving Formosa.

Then, in 1950, he took the most active role he could: he went to Formosa and, working for an American corporation under contract to the Chinese government, stayed two years as adviser to Chiang Kai-shek. He organized a group of American technicians to give assistance to the Chinese and Formosans, and followed up by forming a military group for the same purpose. But he recognized that much more needed to be done in the way of advice and supplies and he continued to recommend to our own authorities that an official advisory mission for Free China be furnished by the United States.

"Finally, in the summer of 1951," the admiral notes, "about a year after the Korean war had started, the initial elements of an official U.S. advisory group arrived. Now, four years later, Presidential action overwhelmingly supported by Congress has given recognition to the importance of the defense of this island to the United States and to the free world."

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Nationalist Gen. Huang Chieh and Adm. Cooke (L.) meet on Formosa